

Annual Report: 2020-2021

Seminar Committee



> Name of the Committee: Seminar Committee

> Objectives of the Committee:

- To organize the flagship event of SIDTM successfully.
- Branding of college amongst aspiring students.
- To invite renowned dignitaries in the ICT industry from India and abroad.
- To showcase the talent of students in the industry.
- Leveraging tie ups with different companies to enhance placements of SIDTM.

> Names of the Students in the Committee:

Senior Committee	Ad-Hoc Junior Committee
REVATHY RAJENDRA PRASAD	BHARATHWAJ REDDY JANGA
SUYASH RAI	APARNA BHAT
BIDISHA NANDI	ANUSHMITA PODDAR
VARHSA GANJOO	CHIRAG TIWARI
NAMRATA KUNDU	ANAGHA RAMKUMAR
ISHAN GUPTA	PRERNA SETH
FEBIN PETER FRANKLIN	SAHIL KURREY
TUSHAR KANSE	PRASAD SHINDE

> Faculty in charge name:

- Communiqué 20 Convener Prof. Avinash Aslekar
- Communiqué 20 Co-Convener Ms.Bhakti Vyawahare

> LIST OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

1. Transcript Writing and Topic Selection

International Telecom Seminar – Communique'20

The preparation for International Telecom Seminar usually commence from the month of June with the process of budget allocation for the event. This year, due to unprecedented times, the event which takes place on September was shifted to March. Due to uncertainty of the event the final call was made at the end of January. Hence the preparations started from February.

The essence of the event is its panel discussions and keynote sessions which give a glimpse of futuristic trend in the ICT industry. The topics for panel discussions were decided and finalized in the month of February which finally lead to the unveiling of the theme of the event:

"Road to Revival: The Technology Connect"

Panel Discussion:

- 1. Digital Technologies and Telecom Sculpting the Future
- 2. Opportunistic Getaway for Technology Start-ups
- 3. Workforce Dynamism and Transitioning Experience
- 4. Establishing Trust in Evolving Security Landscape

Once the topics for panel discussion and the theme were locked, the process of identifying the probable speakers was initiated.

Since the event was decided to be done virtually, there was no requirement for poster and brochures of the event which were usually sent along with the invitation to the speakers, companies and students participating in the event. Finalizing of speakers was done during the month of February.

To reach maximum audience of interest, social media platforms like LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram were used. The main strong point of the seminar was its smooth management. This year, since a physical event was not feasible, a virtual hosting platform was used to conduct the event. The hosting platform gave us a professional environment which was needed when inviting dignitaries of high stature. With this virtual platform, we were able to successfully organize the event with precision and with every aspect of a physical event being catered to efficiently, keeping the grandeur of the seminar intact. Apart from this few quizzes and games were conducted virtually on the platform.

2. Speaker Database and Invite

The team next involved themselves in creating a database of suitable corporate speakers for the event via extracting contacts through LinkedIn. The invitation to the speakers were initiated by the senior team members in February. Since the event was virtual this year so it made participation of speakers was smooth.

3. Internal Preparation for the Final day

Various committees workedtogether for Branding on Social Media which helped us create a buzz about the event. An audio-video was prepared to showcase what exactly we have in our bag for everyone to see because we believe the attention of the audience is most captured by graphics. Invites for the event were sent to our very own Faculty members and Super-Senior team.

4. Virtual Hosting Platform for International Telecom Seminar

Communique - International Telecom Seminar is the flagship event of Symbiosis Institute of Digital and Telecom Management. Each year stalwarts of the industry are invited as speakers to impart their knowledge and experience in the ICT domain. This year, since a physical event was not feasible, a virtual hosting platform was used to conduct the event.

This platform provide for a space to hold a 2 day seminar without losing the essence of the event, with opportunities for branding of the institute, display of agenda, sessions and speakers, networking with corporates in private rooms and most importantly, hold back to back keynote sessions and panel discussions competently. The virtual platform ultimately showcases the adaptation to the current scenario and takes digital to its truest sense and stands by the institute's virtues.

> HUBILO VIRTUAL EVENT PLATFORM

Platform features and experience

1. Session Scheduling

Back to back sessions can be scheduled for separate days which the attendees can view from the platform. Sessions were scheduled for 2 days, 27 th and 28 th March, from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm. The sessions went smooth without any interruptions or disturbances and were viewed by around 400 attendees.

2. Branding & Advertising

The platform can be customized according to the event. All banners and videos of the event and panel discussions were displayed on the platform giving a fully customized feel.

3. Virtual Booth

The Virtual Booth tab works as a booth space for display. The institute's publications, Telecom Business Review and Prevision, were displayed on this space. Their respective banners, videos, contact information and links were attached. It also provided a space for guests to meet and chat with the booth members.

4. Meetings and Lounge

The Meeting tab provides for a one on one meet with the guest and speakers while the lounge tab provides for a group meet with the guests and speakers. These features were used to meet and greet with speakers and to have an interaction with guests and faculties.

5. Reception

The reception tab provided for an overview of the whole event. It displayed the information about the event, the date and time and also the featured sessions that was on the agenda.

6. Event Feed

The event tab was used by attendees to write about what they liked about the event and also was used to show their excitement for each session through posts and pictures.

7. Attendees and Speakers

These tabs showed the profiles of all the attendees and also the profile and information about all of the speakers.

8. Agenda

The agenda tab showed the attendees the whole 2 day session details and the attendees were able to join the session through the options.

9. Contests

The contest tab provided for a space to conduct small contests to engage the attendees, 3 contests we conducted. One, a 4 category quiz that related to the 4 panel discussion topics. Two, a description type contest in which the attendees described the technology shown in the picture. Third, a post type contest, where the students posted pictures of their virtual event setup from home. The response to the contests were overwhelming.

10. Leader board

The attendee's activity in the platform were analysed and given points. They were then arranged in the leader board according to the points received.

11. Analytics

All of the data about the sessions and engagement were visualized. It showed the number of attendees, logins, posts, registrations and all of the activity that took place on the platform

12. Recordings

All sessions were automatically recorded and made available at the end of the session

The experience with the platform was good as it catered to all of the requirements for a virtual event. The guests and attendees were able to view all of the well scheduled sessions without any interruptions. The faculties could interact, both audio and video, with speakers and guests through one on one meetings and the lounge facility made available. The attendees thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and the customizations and contests on the platform. The event received amazing response from the attendees as well as speakers. From the organizing point of view, the platform is very user friendly and well built, taking care of all the points an organizer looks for. Totally, it was a very good experience both from the attendee point of view as well as the organizer point of view.

> MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Our flagship event Communique went live on 27th and 28th of March 2021.
- The Director of the institute and the convener of Communique were able to directly converse with all of the speakers who were invited to the event.
- We saw seamless integration for smooth functioning between various committees and all the activities were on track. The 2-day event was managed with no glitches.
- Feedback received from each of the guests were immensely positive and highly appreciated.

> KEY LEARNINGS

When we have a plan and a belief of executing and meeting the timelines set then all the work is done properly without any chaos and there is very less amount of tension. This is exactly how things shaped up during our journey through Communique'20. Also, junior involvement throughout the seminar benefitted both seniors and juniors because:

- Juniors gave inputs in all decisions made by the seniors.
- Juniors felt themselves involved and thus would be able to efficiently handle the functioning next year.

All committees should be in sync with each other for smooth functioning of the work. Keeping a good relation with all the committees especially with CIT, Alumni, Branding, Acads and WebNTech is important. Seeking help from the Branding team to create awareness about the event has been integral. Keeping in sync with both CIT and Alumni about the speakers was also important. In a pressure situation, we must analyze, take help from people and react calmly about it. Integration between senior and junior team was very good as they were involved in most of the activities and could help the seniors in every possible way. Decision making ability should be supreme as dynamic decisions have to be taken as the date of the event comes closer. There should be a great precision in dealing with corporates as right amount of information needs to be shared with them and it must be seen that corporate gets everything which is required for him/her.

> MAJOR ISSUES FACED

We saw an issue of last-minute cancellation of speakers. A speaker had to cancel as he had an urgent health emergency. A speaker might cancel his participation at the last minute hence dynamic situation handling is must. Also the speaker should be given a good hospitality on the event day so that he/she is pleased and has no chance of agitation.

Another issue that was faced was of late platform approval which needs to be taken care of. All the topics and themes were getting decided even though the final approval from the university was left and that helped a lot in making the event successful as everything was decided upfront. Due to the delay in fixing the platform, proper preparation on the platform was lacking and preparations had to be rushed. But as everyone worked together, the event went smooth. All approval and finalizations should be made as early as possible to avoid rush or uncertainty towards the end.

> COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTION TO SIDTM AND STUDENTS

- 1. **ITS The flagship event** The role of the committee has always been to give effort, achieve brilliance and creativity through work and consolidation so that the excellence of being a flagship event of the college should remain at par with its status.
- 2. **Trending topics** The committee has sharply monitored the current industrial and market trend which evolve with technology and expansion of the ITC domain. The topics are interactive with both group discussions followed by panel discussion. The renowned people from the industry have been reviewing the topics as the most important and game changer phases of the technology ecosystem and the market.
- 3. Corporate head from the industries top MNC, ICT domain visit the college and they look up to the event as one of most prestigious and dignified platform for discussion on current trends, topics and the intra and inter changeable aspects of the industry. Hence this attraction of corporates has given us an open door toward creating a healthy and professional relationship with the corporates and gives us the scope for inviting them for the placements.
- 4. This event has brought the whole student fraternity together on a single platform to work with each other making it the backbone of the flagship event. This is the only event where the whole college together works as a team creating a humongous platform for the corporates.
- 5. Branding is one of the elemental pillars which have been strongly executed in a very broad margin by the committee so that it can attract more corporate from the industry and can hold the status and benchmark it has created. This also drives more students each year to participate in this event.

Inventory:

- 1. Mobile Phone
- 2. Drawer and almirah keys
- 3. Corporate Folders
- 4. Glass Set and Tray

Database of the committee:

All the Database has been handed over to the junior committee.

Any other items to be handed over to junior team: NA

Whether all accounts related balances are clear: Yes

Suggestions for improvement to junior batch:

The budget should be approved early on and proper team work is a must. Each and every task should be done under supervision of the mentors. Every enquiry mail from the Alumni or any corporate needs to be acknowledged without fail. Approvals need to be taken as soon as possible. Good relation with other committees should be maintained

SCHEDULE: 27TH MARCH 2021

TIMING	AGENDA	
10:00Hrs – 10:20Hrs	Welcome Address	
10:20Hrs – 10:30Hrs	Inaugural Speech by Prof. Avinash Aslekar , Convener, Communique	
10:30Hrs – 10:40Hrs	Welcome address by Prof. Abhijit Chirputkar , Director, SIDTM	
10:40Hrs – 11:00Hrs	Unveiling of Prevision'21 and TBR Journal	
11:00Hrs – 11:15Hrs	Prevision'21 Presentation	
11:15Hrs – 12:05Hrs	Keynote Session on Covid19's Reverberation on Business by	
	Pradeep Saini, APAC Director - Digital Transition & , Transformation IBM	
12:05Hrs – 12:35Hrs	Lunch Break	
12:35Hrs – 13:15Hrs	Panel Discussion 1: Digital Technologies and Telecom Sculpting the Future	
	A. Arun Karna - Managing Director & CEO, AT&T Global Network Services India Private Ltd.	
	B. Joydeep Mukherjee - Assistant Vice President, Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd.	
	C. Anil Jain - Principal Director - Industry Practice Lead for Comms & Media, Accenture	
	D. Chandrasekhar Panda – Associate Partner, Digital & Core Tech, McKinsey & Company	
	E. Shrikant Mehta – Director, Cloud and Network Services, Nokia	
13:15Hrs – 13:30Hrs	Q&A Session	
13:30Hrs – 14:10Hrs	Panel Discussion 2: Opportunistic Gateway for Technology Startups	
	A. Pawan Desai - Co-founder & CEO, MitKat Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd.	
	B. Krishan Mittal - Chief Executive Officer, Semantic Technologies	
	C. Pankit Desai - Co-Founder and CEO, SEQURETEK	
	D. Kaustubh Patekar - Founder, The ProdZen	
14:10Hrs – 14:25Hrs	Q&A Session	

SCHEDULE: 28TH MARCH 2021

TIMING	AGENDA	
10:00Hrs – 10:20Hrs	Welcome Address	
10:20Hrs – 11:10Hrs	Keynote Session on 5G Prospectus: Fathomable or Nebulous? by Madhav Sheth, Vice President & CEO, Realme	
11:10Hrs – 11:50Hrs	Panel Discussion 3: Workforce Dynamism and Transitioning Experience	
	A. Sahil Nayar - Senior Associate Director – HR, KPMG India	
	B. Digwanta Chakraborty - India Talent Acquisition Head Technology, Digital & Analytics, BCG	
	C. Shakambhari Thakur - General Manager - Corporate Communications, Samsung R&D	
	D. Atul Sharma - Head HR - Talent Acquisition, Performance, Rewards & Operations, Sony Pictures Networks India	
11:50Hrs – 12:05Hrs	Q&A Session	
12:05Hrs – 12:35Hrs	Lunch Break	
12:35Hrs – 13:15Hrs	Panel Discussion 4: Establishing Trust in Evolving SecurityLandscape	
	A. Vijay Banda - Senior Director of Cyber Security, Qualcomm	
	B. Philip Varughese Vayarakunnil - VP & Lead - Cyber Defense & Security, Accenture	
	C. Vinit Sinha - Director - Cybersecurity Advisory Practice, Mastercard	
	D. Rakesh Goel - Senior Director, Capgemini	
13:15Hrs – 13:30Hrs	Q&A Session	
13:30Hrs – 13:45Hrs	Academic Awards	
13:45Hrs – 14:00Hrs	Star Alumni Awards	
14:00Hrs – 14:25Hrs	Vote of Thanks	

> SPEAKER REVEAL

Keynote 1: COVID-19 Reverberation on Business



Keynote 2: 5G Prospectus: Fathomable or Nebulous?



Panel Discussion 1: Digital Technologies and Telecom Sculpting the Future



Panel Discussion 2: Opportunistic Getaway for Technology Start-ups



Panel Discussion 3: Workforce Dynamism and Transitioning Experience



Panel Discussion 4: Establishing Trust in Evolving Security Landscape



> CONVENER SPEECH



Mr Avinash Aslekar (Convener: Communiqué)

Good morning, esteemed speakers, director, deputy director, faculties, students, ladies and gentlemen. I welcome you all to communique 20, the flagship event of SIDTM.

In a way this event along with numerous other grant events across the globe conducted virtually, is the greatest showcase of the power of telecom and digital technology in our virtual daily lives. And I feel proud saying this, being a faculty of this esteemed institute and being the convener of this prestigious event.

Communique20 tries to apprehend the digital and telecom space. This event shall touch upon the ICT domain where we intend to discuss and explore opportunities concerning the global business in this era, decisive not only to technology but to the entire human era. Last year was definitely not a pleasant one, but it also tested our will power and strength. With the vaccine rolling out and the businesses making a comeback, we have decide to go with the theme "road to revival" and topics touching upon the impacts of the pandemic in business, the new opportunities to boost the startup environment, how digital technologies are going to sculpt the future, 5g prospectus, workforce dynamism and security landscape. We are delighted to have panelists with a rich and diverse range of experience and are looking forward to their valuable thoughts and insights onto these topics.

In the era of uncertainty, the unprecedented times, when we truly witnessed digital disruption, the world realized the relevance of telecom and digital technology and we believe that communique20 will be one of the most enlightening and relevant events of the present, revealing the ideas and vision which global leaders of ICT domain have for the future. I am sure the next two days are going to be a great learning and enlightening experience.

Once again welcome to Communique 20. Thank you.

> DIRECTOR SPEECH



Mr. Abhijit Chirputkar (Director, SIDTM)

Highlights of speech:

Prof. Abhijit Chirputkar, Director of SiDTM whole heartily invited all the speakers and attendees of the seminar. He spoke about the legacy of the International Telecom Seminar over the past years, the constraints faced due to the pandemic and the decision to move into a virtual environment for the renowned event. The institute had changed its name from Symbiosis Institute of Telecom Management to Symbiosis Institute of Digital and Telecom Management on the year 2019 and was announced last year in this very seminar. The importance of digital technologies and advancements, especially during pandemic was spoken about giving relevance to the name change. The institute has completed 25 years of excellence and is the top Telecom B-School as well as one of the top B-Schools in India. The presence of a strong alumni base whose contributions have helped many is also one of the strong points. The curriculum is curated in accordance with the changing needs and specializations sorted reflecting the industry requirements. He gave special mention to the institute's forecast journal Prevision and the annual journal Telecom Business Review. He also thanked and appreciated all the committees and individuals who worked tirelessly to organize the event, even in unprecedented times. Concluding his speech he wished all the best for a smooth functioning of the 2-day International Telecom Seminar.

> TOPIC DESCRIPTIONS

Keynote

COVID-19 Reverberation on Business

The impact of the pandemic has affected almost all sectors of business and has pushed the global economy to its limits. While it had positive effects on sectors like pharmacy, telecom and digital technologies, it proved to be a downfall for others. There is a need to balance operational and financial challenges of the business as well as to address needs of people. The discussion revolved around these issues, how different is the present economic crisis and how businesses will revive from its dwindling state.



5G Prospectus: Fathomable or Nebulous?

What does the year 2021 mean for the transformation we were expecting from 5G? How will the setback affect the national rollouts and what progress should the vendors, operators and users expect to see in its grip in the network planning? With the rising demands and the counter challenges of the pandemic, what does the future hold for the most build-up technology in the telecom sector? The discussion revolved around these issues.



Panel Discussion

Digital Technologies and Telecom Sculpting the Future

The discussion revolved around the fact that digital technologies and the telecom sector have become a critical enabler in both facilitating business continuity and flattening the curve globally. Emerging technologies have been adopted as solutions in expectations for smoother lockdown exit. It has also brought out challenges faced in terms of infrastructure and connectivity. We have also seen shortcomings on several fronts in the healthcare domain. With technology led innovations coming into focus, how far are we to get traction in healthcare and medical administration?

The business environment has never been static, simple, or certain! Profound changes, sometimes abrupt, sometimes gradual, have been reshaping the world for centuries. Digitalization is causing a radical reordering of traditional industrial boundaries. The Digital and Telecom sector has been momentous in keeping the operations of the business community intact and saving many economies from collapsing. But what will it take to play offense and defense in tomorrow's evolved ecosystem? The discussion gave a wider picture of the future alterations in the business landscape



Opportunistic Getaway for Technology Start-ups

The sudden global shift has opened up numerous opportunities for technological innovations. The discussion revolved around how start-ups are becoming an indispensable part of the nation's growth with a high potential for job growths, innovation and competition. But with lockdown causing a wane in investments and leading to shutdowns, will the start-up sector be able to revive itself from the dwindling fortunes? Will the Start-up culture efficiently utilize the new platform of 'Local gets Vocal' or will it remain merely a hype?

The pandemic has given a strong signal: entrepreneurs have to pivot or perish—there really is no third option. And this pivot could include a complete change: change the product/proposition, re-focus on a different market, a different business model, and even build new delivery mechanisms. Speakers argued that the crisis could negatively impact the risks associated with entrepreneurship, and ultimately hinder start-ups in attracting the right talent while others suggested that the changes we observe today could alter perceptions of entrepreneurship for the better. The discussion gave a wider picture of the future for technology start-ups.



Workforce Dynamism and Transitioning Experience

The lockdown forced millions of people to abruptly start working from home for the first time and organizations were pressed to find out ways to adapt and ensure productivity, connectivity, security, and employee experience at a fast pace. How has the paradigm shifted? Have the organizations been able to handle their crew effectively? Has the workforce bounced back into track? What is the role of technologies in the process of employee engagement and recruitment? The discussion revolved around such cybersecurity concerns.

The year 2020 brought some perpetual changes in the work environment and business dynamics but a well-planned transition can offer numerous opportunities for discovery and innovation. Such dynamism in the working environment has raised certain important questions and concerns. Has the organizational efficiency, connectivity and security downgraded due to the new methods of collaboration? Have the organizations been able to handle their workforce effectively? What is the future role of technologies in the process of employee engagement and recruitment? The discussion gave a wider perspective of how the workforce management is poised to change in 2021.



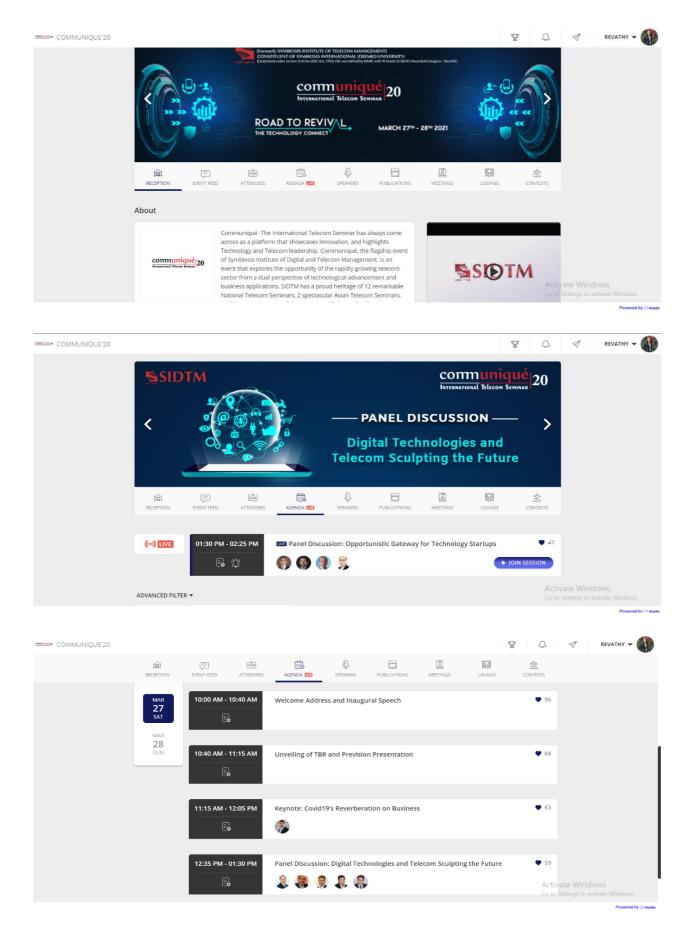
Establishing Trust in Evolving Security Landscape

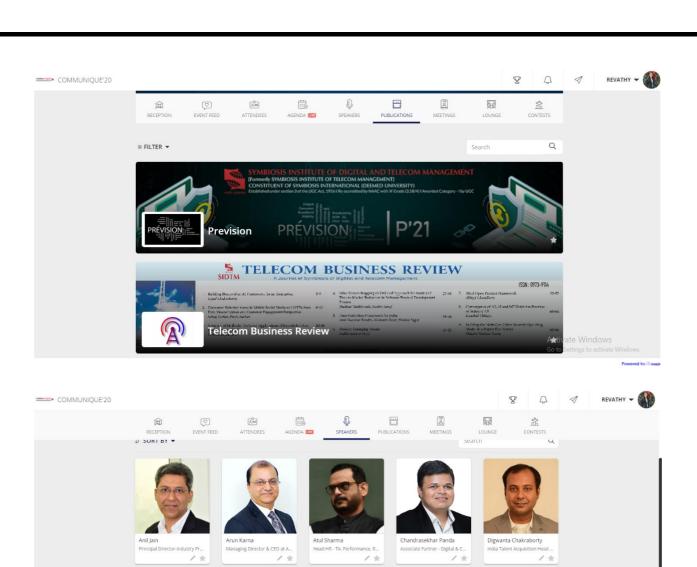
The pandemic has set the trend of businesses moving from the traditional work sphere to work from home environments. The discussion revolved around how the post-pandemic threat landscape has given a new set of vulnerabilities with respect to privacy and security measures. Cyber attackers have been constantly trying to exploit these pain points. Thus, it becomes crucial for security personals to protect the critical organizational assets with optimum solutions, while retaining the trust of the individual by respecting and adhering to the data privacy policy.

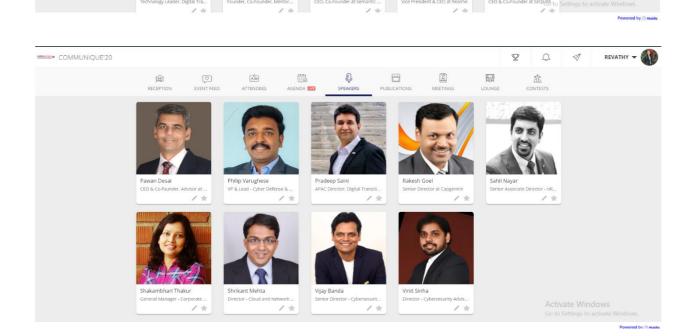
In a connected business environment where sensitive customer data is highly attractive to hackers, facing a cyber-attack is no longer a case of 'if', but 'when'. An evolving threat landscape, COVID-19 themed attacks, increased digital risk and remote workforce vulnerabilities are among a growing list of challenges that organizations have been forced to face. Businesses should not only focus on minimizing such threats but also find ways to establish trust amongst their customers and the ones that get this right would become the front runners of a digital future. The discussion gave valuable insights on how organizations can develop a secure digital ecosystem.

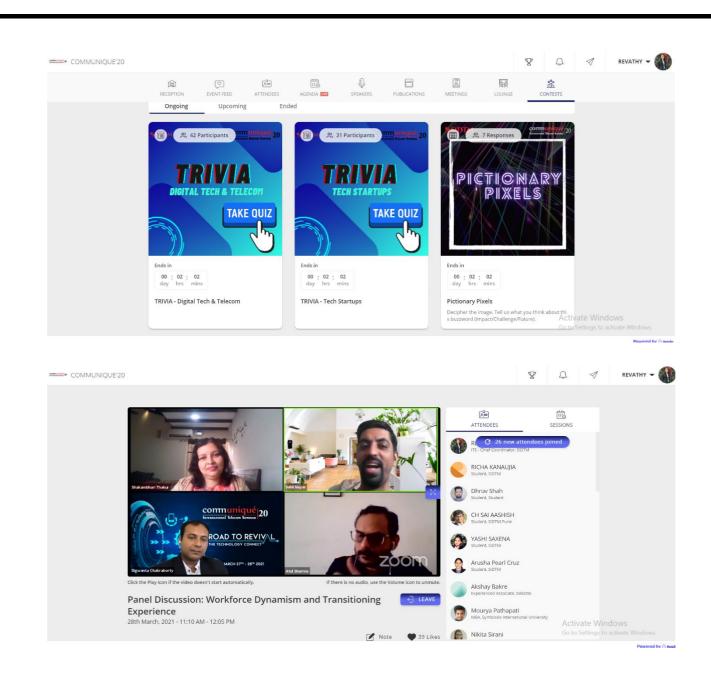


> HUBILO PLATFORM









Prepared by

Prof. Avinash Asleker Convener, International Telecom Seminar